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18 July 2002

BY FAX TO: 001 612 334 3312
FROM: 020 7430 7600 - 5 PAGES
CONFIRMATION BY POST

Dear Nick,

UK Patent Application No. 0128625.1
Claiming Priority from US Patent Application No. 09/733,106
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VERIFYING INTEGRITY OF CASCADE IMPACTORS
MSP Corporation
Your Ref: M419.13-0018 / NEW
Our Ref: NAM/GRD/P59089/000

Further to my letter of 18 December 2001, we have now received the enclosed letter from the UK Patent Office including their Search Report for this case. Copies of the documents cited in the Search Report will follow with a confirmatory copy of this letter.

The Search Examiner believes that the claims of this application relate to six different inventions, and the Search Report covers only the first of these inventions, as defined in claims 1 to 5. The different inventions identified by the Search Examiner are listed in the enclosed letter from the Patent Office. If you would like to have any or all of the remaining five inventions searched, then it will be necessary to file a separate Search request for each invention and to pay the corresponding number of Search fees. The additional Search requests may be filed at any time during the prosecution of this application but, at

cont...

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the very latest, before filing a response to any Examination Report received on this case. Please let me know if you would like us to request any further Searches.

For the Search conducted on the first invention, the Search Examiner has brought forward two documents. However, both of these documents have been placed in category A, meaning that they are only thought to be of background relevance to the claims.

The letter from the UK Patent Office also indicates that this application is due to be published some time after 23 July 2002. From the date that this application is actually published, we will have six months in which to request Examination and pay the Examination fee. Please let me have your instructions for attending to this.

I shall write again when we have received word that publication is due. In the meantime, I am arranging for my firm's invoice to be sent to you together with a further copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Nick McLeish
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Enclosure



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Your Reference: NAM/GRD/P59089/000
Application No: GB 0128625.1

26 June 2002

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)

I enclose two copies of my search report and two copies of the citations.

Plurality of invention

I consider that your application relates to more than one invention as follows:

- i) A cascade impactor having second cover for attachment to an external pressure sensor as defined in claims 1-5.
- ii) Construction of a cascade impactor having base member, seal member and cover member as defined in claims 6-9.
- iii) A hinge and closure mechanism for a cascade impactor as defined in claim 10.
- iv) A latch mechanism for a cascade impactor as defined in claims 11 & 12.
- v) A cascade impactor having an outlet filter as defined in claims 13 & 14.
- vi) Method of forming a groove in a seal plate and a seal plate with a seal groove as defined in claims 15 & 16.

My search report relates to the first invention only. If you want any of the other inventions searched, you should file a separate Patents Form 9/77 for each invention.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **23 July 2002**. You will then receive a

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letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

Yours faithfully

Jason Scott
Examiner



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Application No: GB 0128625.1
Claims searched: 1-5

Examiner: Jason Scott
Date of search: 25 June 2002

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed. T): B2F (FJH)

Int Cl (Ed. 7):

Other: ONLINE: WPI, JAPIO, EPODOC

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
P, A	GB 2351155 A MSP CORP See whole document and in particular	
A	US 5343767 MSP CORP See whole document.	

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.

& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.